



News Release

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Department of Health offices will close February 22 for temporary layoff

OLYMPIA — All Washington State Department of Health offices will be closed to the public on Tuesday, February 22, due to state budget reductions. State offices are also closed February 21 in observance of President's Day.

The law, ESSB 6503, calls for reductions in agencies that are part of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Ten temporary layoff days are part of the package that will reduce spending by an estimated \$70 million. February 22 is the seventh of those days, which extend from July 2010 through June of 2011.

A few agency employees in patient safety and laboratory testing are exempt from the temporary layoffs and will work regular schedules. The Department of Health is headquartered in Tumwater. It also has offices at Spokane, Yakima, Richland, Kent, and Shoreline.

Regular office hours will resume Wednesday, February 23. A complete list of [state agency temporary layoff days](#) (www.doh.wa.gov/OS/temporary-layoff.htm) is available online.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.